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SENATOR BEUTLER: ...they never did anything. So the county, having to pay for some of this stuff I think is the reason...to me, seemed to be...I don't know, it could be lack of...ignorance, it could be ignorance, it could be lack of will, but it could well have been reluctance to involve the counties an additional expense. And does this bill present the same kind of problem with a new commitment procedure? I mean, do we need to take over the expense of this to be sure people are protected? I'd be interested in your observations on that and the...

SENATOR BOURNE: Yeah. Yeah, I appreciate that. You know, my sense, Senator Beutler, in talking to the county attorneys, it was more a function of how incredibly busy they are, rather than expense. And I think what you see is county attorneys who are, frankly, overworked and it was just simply falling through the cracks rather than an expense issue.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator. (Visitors introduced.)
Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. And, Senator Beutler, if you'd like to continue the dialogue, that would be great. And again, I want to just reiterate that in visiting with the county attorneys involved in this process, it was more a function of...it was more a function of time and maybe a lack of knowledge of the process. And so I think it is appropriate, given that these individuals, if they are civilly committed, will ultimately become responsibility of the state. I think it is appropriate that the ultimate authority or the ultimate decider of whether or not to initiate civil commitment hearings against an individual the Department of Corrections still feels is dangerous should rely with the Attorney General.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR BOURNE: And, Senator Beutler, if you have other questions, I'd be happy to continue the dialogue.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler.